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31. *Alteration of the civil jurisdiction of the Shertallai Munsiff's Court.*

Mr. N. Padmanabha Kymal (Member, Shertallai Taluk) said that the people of the taluk were peculiarly unfortunate in the matter of communications and were undergoing considerable inconvenience every day in going to the several public offices and courts. The Member particularly referred to the sandy roads from Arukutty to Shertallai, from Shertallai to Alleppey, and from Arukutty to Thannirmukkam, and he requested that they should be improved and a few bridges also provided across certain canals and rivers that lay between, chiefly at Thuravur and Kuthiathode and near Thannirmukkam. He said that the grievance on account of the want of proper roads had now become nothing, when compared to the inconvenience arising from the recent change in the civil jurisdiction of the taluk, by which a number of cases on the file of the Shertallai Munsiff's Court had been transferred to Alleppey. The Member prayed that the *status quo* might be restored.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

32. *The transfer of the civil appellate jurisdiction over the Vaikam Munsiff to the Alleppey or the Kottayam District Court.*

Mr. Rayiran Kesava Kymal (Member, Vaikam Taluk) stated that it was a matter for general complaint that the civil appellate jurisdiction over the Vaikam Munsiff's Court had been retransferred to the Parur District Court. The appellate jurisdiction over that Munsiff had once been at Parur, and it was on the representation of the people, which the Government then considered reasonable, that the transfer was ordered to Alleppey. The Member therefore prayed that the appellate jurisdiction over the Vaikam Munsiff might be transferred to the Alleppey District Court or to the Kottayam District Court.

Dewan.—If the transfer is made as suggested by the Member, the Parur District Court will not have enough work, and the Alleppey or the Kottayam District Court, to which the appellate jurisdiction may be transferred, will experience congestion.

The Member replied that it was a matter of great grievance that the people of the taluk should suffer on account of that difficulty. At present, they had to travel 45 miles to prefer an appeal. It should be possible for the Government, by a readjustment, to equalise the work of the several Courts. He prayed that the Parur Court might at least be shifted to Alwaye, if the present arrangements had to continue.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

33. *Investing the District Courts with power to inspect the Munsiffs' Courts.*

Mr. A. M. Kumara Pillai, B. A., B. L. (Member, Agasteeswaram Taluk) said that his request was that the District Courts should be invested with the power of inspecting

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the Munsiffs' Courts under them. At present the right of inspection vested only in the High Court. The District Courts, which exercised appellate jurisdiction, could not inspect the Munsiffs' Courts and see how things were going on in the latter. The High Court, with their multifarious duties, were not able to do the inspection work as satisfactorily as could be wished. In 1085, the High Court were able to inspect only 8 out of the 39 Courts. The High Court themselves would be prepared to concede that the Munsiffs should be kept under proper control and their work carefully scrutinised, and it was all the more necessary now, because the Civil Courts' Regulation of 1084 had enhanced the small cause jurisdiction of the Munsiffs from Rs. 30 to Rs. 100. The Munsiffs now disposed of their small cause suits in the most summary way, and there was no appeal from their decisions; but a revision power lay in the High Court, which ordinarily could not be exercised unless a point of law was involved in the case. Last year, about 39,000 suits, of the value of 14 lacs of rupees, belonging to poor people, were disposed of in this way. It was this rough and ready sort of justice that the people got in these small cause suits. It was therefore imperatively necessary that the work of the lower courts should receive careful and constant supervision at the hands of responsible officers, and the power of inspection could well be given to the District Courts, who had every facility to do the work satisfactorily, without in any way allowing their legitimate work to suffer. The Member added that the system advocated by him obtained in British India. The Munsiffs' Courts in the State were all situated within easy distances of the District Courts, and even if, in any case, the distance was great, the advantages from the change were so great that the risk might well be taken. He therefore requested that the matter might be favourably considered.

Dewan's reply.— The High Court are in favour of the suggestion made by the Member and the Government hope to take action in the matter soon.

24. Certain irregular proceedings of the Civil and Criminal Courts.

Mr. O. Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Quilon Taluk) made the following suggestions for the consideration of the Government, with a view to prevent the privations and losses which the public experienced at the hands of the Judicial Department:—

(1) That orders should be issued to enforce the High Court Circular requiring decrees in civil cases to be drawn up within two weeks from the date of judgment and also to see that such decrees were correctly drawn up. The Member said that at present there was a delay of several months

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